

Innovations in Advancing Democracy: Internet Freedom, Wikileaks and Beyond A Web Chat Featuring Alec Ross and Ben Scott Transcript April 1, 2011

CO.NX Moderator Lacey: (3/29/2011 11:31) Welcome! The webchat "Innovations in Advancing Democracy: Internet Freedom, Wikileaks and Beyond" with Alec Ross, Senior Advisor for Innovation at the United States Department of State, and Ben Scott, Policy Advisor for Innovation at the United States Department of State, will take place on Friday, April 1 at 9 a.m. Canberra time (Thursday, March 31, at 6 p.m. EST).

CO.NX Moderator Lacey: (11:32) Advance questions are welcome and encouraged, so please feel free to submit your questions in this space.

CO.NX Moderator Lacey: (11:33) Interested in following the conversation on Twitter? The hashtag is #oznetfreedom.

CO.NX Moderator Lacey: (3/31/2011 09:39) To follow Alec Ross on twitter, look for @alecjross

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:00) We will begin in just a moment.

JJJ: (18:05) thanks for letting me join the discussion

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:05) We are glad to have you here.

Washington, D.C.: (18:09) One of the advanced questions from Melbourne and Canberra was: The Obama Administration has made much of transparency and accountability, but how does social media play a role in that? Aren't most of the Administration's efforts removed from actual policy decisions?

Washington, D.C.: (18:11) Another advanced question from Mission Australia was: For many Australians, social media seems to be mostly a diversion and a distraction. How can governments overcoming that to have substantive interactions with their citizenry?

Washington, D.C.: (18:14) Another advanced question from Mission Australia: The recent revolutions in Tunisia and especially Egypt were heralded as "Facebook Revolutions." How can governments use social media to such a great affect?

TG23: (18:19) glad to be her.

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:19) We are glad you are here, too!

JJJ: (18:20) Is technology is now working against the need for secrecy as well?

Washington, D.C.: (18:25) Mission Australia asks: How do you draw the line between your personal life and your professional life representing the U.S. Government on Twitter?

Fergus Hanson: (18:28) To what extent do you see Twitter, in the hands of US officials, as a tool for shaping and influencing debates online before considered blog posts are written or newspapers hit the stands?

Annabel Crabb: (18:32) To what extent has Wikileaks given pause to the post-9/11 US enthusiasm for intelligence sharing?

Prashanth "PJ" Shanmugan 2: (18:33) What lessons can other countries learn from eDiplomacy? Would foreign ministers have the capacity to use social media to the full?

TG23: (18:36) stepping away from the idea of the technology itself, what about the need for the closing of the technology gap? repressed people and poor people cannot have a twitter revolution without the 1. access to WWW and 2. Education to use the technology. How do you respond?

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:38) Can you all see and hear clearly?

Trev: (18:39) A question from Pia Waugh here in Canberra: With the recent spate of emergencies and disasters this year, how do you see social media playing a role in events like the floods here in Queensland?

Travis Longmore: (18:39) From our audience in Canberra: Going back to the openness of the Obama Administration, can you confirm the reports that Data.gov, apps.gov/now, USASpending.gov, IT DASHBOARD and paymentaccuracy.gov as well internal government sites including performance.gov, fedpace would be taken offline due to budget cuts in the congress?

Kathy Topley: (18:39) yes

JJJ: (18:42) as you try for a new 21st century statecraft, how do you get traditional diplomatic community to take this new technology seriously?

Washington, D.C.: (18:43) Unfortunately we have run out of time to respond to additional questions. Thank you all for submitting so many engaging questions and comments in this chat.

Fergus Hanson: (18:43) Thanks for having me along. Great concept.

Sabrina: (18:44) Thanks. We look forward to more of the same.

TG23: (18:45) Thanks to you both! bye to all!

Washington, D.C.: (18:45) Thanks for joining us TG23!

RockyH: (18:46) Great Session, keep them coming.

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:47) Tweet your feedback to #oznetfreedom!

Bernard Keane: (18:49) thanks guys

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:49) Also, continue the discussion online on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/australia.usembassy>

CO.NX Moderator (Kristin): (18:53) We are rebroadcasting this discussion now.